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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017
(Item 3 (b))

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 12th meeting, on 9 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog.15)).

2. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme and commended the Commission for its focus on the sustainable development agenda and the integration of sustainable development in the programme of work. Member States expressed satisfaction with the restructuring and reorganization of the programme in the previous biennium and were pleased with the presentation of the overall orientation and the methodology used in implementing the subprogrammes.

4. Delegations noted that the reorganization had resulted in the reduction of the number of subprogrammes from 10 to 9 and enquired about the impact on the programme and results achieved.

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5. The view was expressed that the orientation of the subprogrammes needed to be aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the post-2015 development goals. Questions were raised as to the ways in which they would be reflected in the subprogrammes.

6. It was pointed out that critical elements, such as environment and industrialization, were sectoral, and Member States enquired about the ways in which such sectoral issues would be addressed by ECA.

7. Member States also expressed appreciation for the Commission's work in statistics, as the continent had been struggling in that area for a long time.

8. Member States noted the third-party evaluations system of ECA and the programme's emphasis on accountability, and expressed the view that such measures were a good example of how other regional commissions could approach the issue. It was noted that there existed possible synergies and efficiencies among the regional commissions on accountability. Member States enquired about the progress made with the Commission's internal approach to accountability and how productive it had been with the programme. They also enquired whether the new accountability framework and evaluation policy was a new approach for the programme.

9. Member States discussed the Commission's work in the area of capacity development and enquired whether the Capacity Development Division, referred to in subprogramme 5, Capacity development, shared staff with other divisions and if so, whether that posed any challenges.

10. It was suggested that the regional coordination mechanism, which provided support for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union beyond 2016 framed within the context of the African Union partnership and development, should be included in the indicators of achievement of the subprogramme.

11. Member States noted the support for gender provided by the Economic Commission for Africa under subprogramme 6 and requested reassurance about the successful implementation of the subprogramme.

12. Views were expressed on the 2012-2013 performance report, which included comments on the challenges of the previous biennium. Member States referred to the need to establish a new strategy on capacity-building, as noted in the report, and enquired about the challenges faced by ECA and the remedies applied in the area of capacity-building in the biennium 2012-2013.

13. Concerns were expressed that subprogramme 1 on macroeconomic policy should focus on strengthening the public sector, as that approach was not contained in the expected accomplishments or indicators of achievement.

14. Member States also raised concerns about the methodology used with the expected accomplishments in subprogramme 3, Innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources.

15. Moreover, Member States queried ECA about its views regarding natural disasters and climate change under subprogramme 9, Social development policy.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1
Macroeconomic policy

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (i), replace the word "with" with the word "implementing".

Strategy

Paragraph 15.12

In the third sentence, after the word "opportunities", add "gender equality and women's empowerment".

Subprogramme 2
Regional integration and trade

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (iii), replace the word "incentivizing" with the word "attracting".

Subprogramme 3
Innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), add the words "national or" after the words "based on".

In indicator of achievement (c), add at the end "and/or their national policies".

Subprogramme 5
Capacity development

Indicators of achievement

Add new indicator of achievement (a) (iii): "Increased support for the development of the post-Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme plan for the United Nations partnership with the African Union".

Subprogramme 6
Gender and women in development

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (iii), delete the words "divisions and offices, individually and/or collaboratively".

Subprogramme 7
Subregional activities for development

Component 2
Subregional activities in West Africa

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a), add the words "and subregional" after the word "country".

Add indicator of achievement (b) (ii): "Increased number of policy recommendations and advisory services rendered to post-conflict countries".

Component 3
Subregional activities in Central Africa

In indicator of achievement (a), add the words "and subregional" after the word "country".

Add indicator of achievement (b) (ii): "Increased number of policy recommendations and advisory services rendered to post-conflict countries".

Component 4
Subregional activities in East Africa

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), add the word "small" before the word "island".

Component 5
Subregional activities in Southern Africa

In indicator of achievement (a), add the words "and subregional" after the word "country".

Subprogramme 9
Social development policy

Strategy

Paragraph 15.62

Add the phrase "as well as people who have been affected by natural disasters, climate change and conflicts" after the word "migration".